

**BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP**

**CUSTOMER NUMBER: 25267**

2700 First Indiana Plaza  
135 North Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 684-5000

**PATENT APPLICATION**

*IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

*Atty. Docket:* 8266-1268

*Applicants:* Salvatini et al.

*Invention:* PATIENT SUPPORT  
APPARATUS AND  
METHOD

*Serial No.:* 10/806,706

*Filed:* March 23, 2004

*Examiner:* Unknown

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being  
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Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313

On May 11, 2004

A. Garland

A. Garland

Dated: May 11, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Applicants call attention to the art references within the knowledge of applicant and its attorney which are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made or that no better art references are available. The filing of this statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 1.56(b).

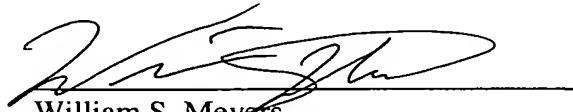
**REMARKS**

None of the art cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.

Please charge any fees that might be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Bose McKinney & Evans LLP's Deposit Account No. 02-3223. An extra copy of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William S. Meyers', is written over a horizontal line.

William S. Meyers  
Registration No. 42,884

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(317) 684-5000

540459\_1

<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO.: 8266-1268	SERIAL NO.: 10/806,706
	APPLICANT(S): Salvatini et al.	
	FILING DATE: March 23, 2004	GROUP: Unknown

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	AA	1,730,752	10/08/1929	Withers			
	AB	1,772,310	08/05/1930	Hart			
	AC	2,029,370	02/04/1936	Heldenbrand			
	AD	2,604,641	07/29/1952	Reed			
	AE	2,742,652	04/24/1956	Mautz			
	AF	2,757,389	08/07/1956	King			
	AG	3,000,020	09/19/1961	Lombard et al.			
	AH	3,030,145	04/17/1962	Kottmann			
	AI	3,047,888	08/07/1962	Shecter et al.			
	AJ	3,080,578	03/12/1963	Novascone			
	AK	3,083,379	04/02/1963	Marinsky			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	GB 1 386 249	05 March 1975	UK				
	AM	GB 2 181 048	15 April 1987	UK				
	AN	GB 2 225 229	30 May 1990	UK				
	AO	WO 86/02815	22 May 1986	PCT				
	AP	WO 87/04934	28 August 1987	PCT				
	AQ	WO 96/33641	31 October 1986	PCT				

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	BA	3,421,163	01/14/1966	Stoughton			
	BB	3,477,071	11/11/1969	Emerson			
	BC	3,485,240	12/23/1969	Fountain			
	BD	3,513,489	05/26/1970	Miller et al.			
	BE	3,717,885	02/24/1973	De Mare			
	BF	3,772,717	11/20/1973	Yuen et al.			
	BG	3,775,781	12/04/1973	Bruno et al.			
	BH	3,939,508	02/27/1976	Hall et al.			
	BI	3,974,532	08/17/1976	Ecchuya			
	BJ	4,042,988	08/23/1977	Holliday			
	BK	4,066,072	01/03/1978	Cummins			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	BL	WO 98/20828	22 May 1998	PCT				
	BM	WO 98/36665	27 August 1998	PCT			X	
	BN	WO 99/49761	07 October 1999	PCT			X	
	BO	FR 2 641 455	22 December 1988	France				
	BP	FR 2 656 795	12 July 1991	France				X
	BQ	EP 0 491 145 A3	29 October 1991	EPO				

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
	BR		
	BS		
	BT		
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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	CA	4,151,618	05/01/1979	Carpenter				
	CB	4,267,611	05/19/1981	Agulnick				
	CC	4,336,621	06/29/1982	Schwartz et al.				
	CD	4,347,633	09/07/1982	Gammons et al.				
	CE	4,449,261	05/22/1984	Magnusson				
	CF	4,454,615	06/19/1984	Whitney				
	CG	4,472,847	09/25/1984	Gammons et al.				
	CH	4,485,505	12/04/1984	Paul				
	CI	4,486,909	12/11/1984	McKneelan				
	CJ	4,522,447	06/11/1985	Snyder et al.				
	CK	4,525,885	07/02/1985	Hunt et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	CL	EP 0 464 692	08 January 1992	EPO				
	CM	EP 0 606 892	20 July 1994	EPO				
	CN	EP 0 986 979 A1	13 September 1999	EPO				
	CO	DE 3 612 362 A1	15 October 1987	Germany				
	CP	CH 332754	15 November 1958	Switzerland				
	CQ	BE 885296	16 January 1981	Belgium				X
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	CR							
	CS							
	CT							
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	DA	4,580,301	04/08/1986	Ludman et al.			
	DB	4,617,690	10/21/1986	Grebe			
	DC	4,631,221	12/23/1986	Disselbeck et al.			
	DD	4,672,702	06/16/1987	Isham			
	DE	4,682,093	07/28/1987	Murphy			
	DF	4,697,290	10/06/1987	Alklind et al.			
	DG	4,706,313	11/17/1987	Murphy			
	DH	4,730,604	03/15/1988	Boggs			
	DI	4,753,480	06/28/1998	Morell			
	DJ	4,777,681	10/18/1988	Lück et al.			
	DK	4,788,730	12/06/1988	Bexton			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES      NO
	DL						
	DM						
	DN						
	DO						
	DP						
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	EA	4,796,948	01/10/1989	Paul et al.			
	EB	4,825,488	05/02/1989	Bedford			
	EC	4,890,877	01/02/1990	Ashtiani-Zarandi et al.			
	ED	4,905,332	03/06/1990	Wang			
	EE	4,930,173	06/05/1990	Woller			
	EF	4,934,002	06/19/1990	Watanabe			
	EG	4,944,060	07/13/1990	Peery et al.			
	EH	4,947,500	08/14/1990	Seiler			
	EI	4,949,412	08/21/1990	Goode			
	EJ	4,951,334	08/28/1990	Maier			
	EK	4,977,629	12/18/1990	Jones			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES NO
	EL						
	EM						
	EN						
	EO						
	EP						
	EQ						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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	FA	5,002,336	03/26/1991	Feher			
	FB	5,022,110	06/11/1991	Stroh			
	FC	5,027,454	07/02/1991	Peng			
	FD	5,039,567	08/13/1991	Landi et al.			
	FE	5,063,912	11/12/1991	Hughes			
	FF	5,067,189	11/26/1991	Weedling et al.			
	FG	5,081,722	01/21/1992	Yu			
	FH	5,081,728	01/21/1992	Skinner			
	FI	5,085,487	02/04/1992	Weingartner et al.			
	FJ	5,088,747	02/18/1992	Morrison et al.			
	FK	5,092,007	03/03/1992	Hasty			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	FL							
	FM							
	FN							
	FO							
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	GA	5,107,558	04/28/1992	Lück			
	GB	5,111,544	05/12/1992	Graebe			
	GC	5,142,720	09/01/1992	Kelso et al.			
	GD	5,168,589	12/08/1992	Stroh et al.			
	GE	5,182,826	02/02/1993	Thomas et al.			
	GF	5,191,664	03/09/1993	Wyatt			
	GG	5,201,780	04/13/1993	Dinsmoor, III et al.			
	GH	5,205,483	04/27/1993	Kostorz			
	GI	5,216,769	06/08/1993	Eakin			
	GJ	5,231,717	08/03/1993	Scott et al.			
	GK	5,243,722	09/14/1993	Gusakov			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES NO
	GL						
	GM						
	GN						
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	HA	5,243,723	09/14/1993	Cotner et al.			
	HB	5,255,404	10/26/1993	Dinsmoor, III et al.			
	HC	5,259,079	11/09/1993	Visser et al.			
	HD	5,269,030	12/14/1993	Pahno et al.			
	HE	5,294,181	03/15/1994	Rose et al.			
	HF	5,301,457	04/12/1994	Seely			
	HG	5,305,483	04/26/1994	Watkins			
	HH	5,313,679	05/24/1994	Yamaguchi			
	HI	5,317,767	06/07/1994	Hargest et al.			
	HJ	5,364,686	11/15/1994	Disselbeck et al.			
	HK	5,375,273	12/27/1994	Bodine, Jr. et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
							YES NO
	HL						
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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	IA	5,403,065	04/04/1995	Callerio			
	IB	5,430,901	07/11/1995	Farley			
	IC	5,442,823	08/22/1995	Siekman et al.			
	ID	5,454,142	10/03/1995	Neely et al.			
	IE	5,457,833	10/17/1995	Jay			
	IF	5,483,711	01/16/1996	Hargest et al.			
	IG	5,487,196	01/30/1996	Wilkinson et al.			
	IH	5,513,402	05/07/1996	Schwartz			
	II	5,513,899	05/07/1996	Michaels et al.			
	IJ	5,553,339	9/10/1996	Thomas			
	IK	5,556,409	10/22/1996	Klearman			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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							YES	NO
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	IN							
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	JA	5,568,663	10/29/1996	Brown			
	JB	5,592,707	01/14/1997	Dinsmoor, III et al.			
	JC	5,617,595	04/08/1997	Landi et al.			
	JD	5,634,225	06/03/1997	Miller, Sr. et al.			
	JE	5,636,395	06/10/1997	Serda			
	JF	5,636,397	06/10/1997	Boyd et al.			
	JG	5,638,564	06/17/1997	Greenawalt et al.			
	JH	5,662,384	09/02/1997	O'Neill et al.			
	JI	5,671,977	09/30/1997	Jay et al.			
	JJ	5,675,852	10/14/1997	Watkins			
	JK	5,675,855	10/14/1997	Culp			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
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	JL							
	JM							
	JN							
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	JQ							

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	KA	5,678,265	10/21/1997	Meyer				
	KB	5,678,891	10/21/1997	O'Neill et al.				
	KC	5,680,662	10/28/1997	Purdy et al.				
	KD	5,681,092	10/28/1997	Hanson et al.				
	KE	5,687,436	11/18/1997	Denton				
	KF	5,689,845	11/25/1997	Sobieralski				
	KG	5,699,569	12/23/1997	Schwarz-Zohrer				
	KH	5,729,853	03/24/1998	Thompson				
	KI	5,731,062	03/24/1998	Kim et al.				
	KJ	5,787,534	08/04/1998	Hargest et al.				
	KK	5,794,289	08/18/1998	Wortman et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	KL							
	KM							
	KN							
	KO							
	KP							
	KQ							
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
	KR							
	KS							
	KT							
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	LA	5,802,646	09/08/1998	Stolpmann et al.			
	LB	5,815,865	10/06/1998	Washburn et al.			
	LC	5,855,415	01/05/1999	Lilley, Jr.			
	LD	5,865,771	02/02/1999	Shuto et al.			
	LE	5,870,785	02/16/1999	Hoorens			
	LF	5,887,304	03/30/1999	von der Heyde			
	LG	5,890,245	04/06/1999	Klearman et al.			
	LH	5,904,172	05/18/1999	Giff et al.			
	LI	5,926,883	07/27/1999	Rechin et al.			
	LJ	5,926,884	07/27/1999	Biggie et al.			
	LK	5,966,762	10/19/1999	Wu			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
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	LM						
	LN						
	LO						
	LP						
	LQ						
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	LR						
	LS						
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EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY DOCKET NO.: 8266-1268	SERIAL NO.: 10/806,706
	APPLICANT(S): Salvatini et al.	
	FILING DATE: March 23, 2004	GROUP: Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	MA	6,014,783	01/18/2000	Collier et al.			
	MB	6,052,851	04/25/2000	Kohnle			
	MC	6,052,853	04/25/2000	Schmid			
	MD	6,055,690	05/02/2000	Koenig			
	ME	6,079,070	06/27/2000	Flick			
	MF	6,131,216	10/17/2000	Pine			
	MG	6,145,142	11/14/2000	Rechin et al.			
	MH	6,269,504	08/07/2001	Romano et al.			
	MI	6,286,167	09/11/2001	Stolpmann			
	MJ	6,336,237	01/08/2002	Schmid			
	MK	6,370,716	04/16/2002	Wilkinson			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	ML							
	MM							
	MN							
	MO							
	MP							
	MQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
	MR		
	MS		
	MT		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	NA	6,370,718	04/16/2002	Schmid			
	NB	6,493,888	12/17/2002	Salvatini et al.			
	NC	6,499,166	12/31/2002	Jones			
	ND	6,701,556	03/09/2004	Romano et al.			
	NE	6,708,352	03/24/2004	Salvatini et al.			
	NF	2001/0025391	10/04/2001	Rabaiotti et al.			
	NG	2002/0133877	09/26/2002	Kuiper et al.			
	NH	2003/0046762	03/13/2003	Stolpmann			
	NI	2003/0084511	05/08/2003	Salvatini et al.			
	NJ	2003/0145380	08/07/2003	Schmid			
	NK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	NL							
	NM							
	NN							
	NO							
	NP							
	NQ							

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)			
	NR		
	NS		
	NT		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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